

# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET

**Note to preparers:** This form is available at [www.mnplan.state.mn.us](http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us). *EAW Guidelines* will be available in Spring 1999 at the web site. The Environmental Assessment Worksheet provides information about a project that may have the potential for significant environmental effects. The EAW is prepared by the Responsible Governmental Unit or its agents to determine whether an Environmental Impact Statement should be prepared. The project proposer must supply any reasonably accessible data for — but should not complete — the final worksheet. If a complete answer does not fit in the space allotted, attach additional sheets as necessary. The complete question as well as the answer must be included if the EAW is prepared electronically.

**Note to reviewers:** Comments must be submitted to the RGU during the 30-day comment period following notice of the EAW in the *EQB Monitor*. Comments should address the accuracy and completeness of information, potential impacts that warrant further investigation and the need for an EIS.

## 1. Project title

2. **Proposer** City of Rushford, MN  
Contact person Larry Bartleson  
Title City Administrator  
Address PO Box 430  
City, state, ZIP Rushford, MN 55971  
Phone 507-864-2667  
Fax 507-864-7003  
E-mail rushford@acegroup.cc

3. **RGU** Environmental Quality Board  
Contact person Bill Storm  
Title State planning Director  
Address 658 Cedar Street, Room 300  
City, state, ZIP St. Paul, MN 55155  
Phone 651-296-9535  
Fax 651-296-3698  
E-mail bill.storm@state.mn.us

## 4. Reason for EAW preparation (check one)

- ☐ EIS scoping      ☐ Mandatory EAW      ☐ Citizen petition      ☐ RGU discretion  
☒ Proposer volunteered

If EAW or EIS is mandatory give EQB rule category subpart number \_\_\_\_\_ and subpart name \_\_\_\_\_

5. **Project location**      County: Fillmore      City/Township: City of Rushford

SW ¼ NE ¼      Section-14      Township- 104      Range-008      OL 2 & PT OL 3

## Attach each of the following to the EAW:

- County map showing the general location of the project;
- U.S. Geological Survey 7.5 minute, 1:24,000 scale map indicating project boundaries (photocopy acceptable);
- Site plan showing all significant project and natural features.

## 6. Description

a. Provide a project summary of 50 words or less to be published in the *EQB Monitor*.

The City of Rushford proposes to provide electric generating capacity by installing three 2000 kilowatt (kW) engine / generator sets in a new power plant building. The engines will burn no. 2 fuel oil to produce 6.0 megawatts (MW) of electricity.

b. Give a complete description of the proposed project and related new construction. Attach additional sheets as necessary. Emphasize construction, operation methods and features that will cause physical manipulation of the environment or will produce wastes. Include modifications to existing equipment or industrial processes and significant demolition, removal or remodeling of existing structures. Indicate the timing and duration of construction activities.

The City of Rushford operates a municipal electric distribution system that provides electrical energy to the community. Rushford is planning to install electric generating capacity by constructing a new power plant. The engine generating units will use no. 2 fuel oil to produce approximately 6.0 MW of electricity.

The new equipment will be installed within a new 40' x 75' power plant building. Three new day tanks and a bulk storage tank containing fuel oil will be installed to serve the new engines. Three exhaust stacks will be located on the north side of the building at a height of 40 feet or more above grade. Approximately 1/2 acre will be cleared and grubbed to provide room and access for the facility. The disturbed area will be covered with building, gravel, grass and other plantings as appropriate. Very small quantities of waste materials, such as concrete, packing materials, etc., will result due to the construction associated with the new engines. Installation of the new engines is estimated to be completed in 2004 with the period of construction expecting to last approximately one year.

Air emissions represent the most significant environmental impact associated with the project. The facility will apply for an MPCA Air Emissions Registration Permit (Option C) that will allow the plant to emit up to approximately 72 tons of NO<sub>x</sub> per year. Diesel engine generators at the plant will emit more NO<sub>x</sub> than any other regulated pollutant. Other environmental impacts associated with the plant include disposal of spent engine lubricating oil and ethylene glycol radiator coolant. The spent oil and glycol will be transported to licensed recycling facilities.

c. Explain the project purpose; if the project will be carried out by a governmental unit, explain the need for the project and identify its beneficiaries.

The purpose of this project is to provide electrical generating capacity for the City of Rushford or under contract to Dairyland Power Cooperative. The project will be funded, accomplished and owned by the City of Rushford. The generators will typically operate during emergencies or periods of peak electric demand.

d. Are future stages of this development including development on any outlots planned or likely to happen? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, briefly describe future stages, relationship to present project, timeline and plans for environmental review.

e. Is this project a subsequent stage of an earlier project? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, briefly describe the past development, timeline and any past environmental review.

**7. Project magnitude data**

Total project acreage 1.0

Number of residential units: unattached N/A attached N/A maximum units per building N/A

Commercial, industrial or institutional building area (gross floor space): 3,000 total square feet

Indicate areas of specific uses (in square feet):

Office	<u>N/A</u>	Manufacturing	<u>N/A</u>
Retail	<u>N/A</u>	Other industrial	<u>3,000</u>
Warehouse	<u>N/A</u>	Institutional	<u>N/A</u>
Light industrial	<u>N/A</u>	Agricultural	<u>N/A</u>
Other commercial (specify)	<u>N/A</u>		
Building height	<u>18 ft</u>	If over 2 stories, compare to heights of nearby buildings	

**8. Permits and approvals required.** List all known local, state and federal permits, approvals and financial assistance for the project. Include modifications of any existing permits, governmental review of plans and all direct and indirect forms of public financial assistance including bond guarantees, Tax

Increment Financing and infrastructure.

<u>Unit of government</u>	<u>Type of application</u>	<u>Status</u>
Federal (Environmental Protection Agency)	Acid Rain Program Exemption	To be submitted
State(Minnesota Pollution Control Agency)	Registration Permit (Option C)	Submitted
Local (City of Rushford)	Building Permit	To be submitted
Local (City of Rushford)	Electric Utility Revenue Bonds	To be submitted
Local (City of Rushford)	Conditional Use/Bluff Protection	To be submitted

9. **Land use.** Describe current and recent past land use and development on the site and on adjacent lands. Discuss project compatibility with adjacent and nearby land uses. Indicate whether any potential conflicts involve environmental matters. Identify any potential environmental hazards due to past site uses, such as soil contamination or abandoned storage tanks, or proximity to nearby hazardous liquid or gas pipelines.

The proposed power plant site is zoned agricultural as defined in Chapter 5 of the City of Rushford Zoning Ordinance. Section 5.30 allows for conditional use of areas in the Agricultural District for public utility uses. An application for conditional use must be filed with the Zoning Administrator and addressed at a public hearing held by the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The proposed site is located within the Bluff Protection (BP) Overlay District. The BP district was created to protect and preserve bluffs and steep slopes that represent an enhancement to the community or pose a risk to the safety of the community if left unprotected. Organizations wishing to construct a structure, perform grading, earth moving or remove vegetation within the BP district can only do so after review and approval by the planning commission.

Within the BP district are bluff impact zones that lie between the toe and the top of a bluff. These are areas where the average slope of the bluff is 20% or higher. Organizations wishing to construct a structure, perform grading, earth moving or remove vegetation within the bluff impact zone can only do so after issuance of a conditional use permit as described above for public utility uses in the agricultural district. The proposed site is situated such that the power plant would be located on a plateau that is within the BP district but not within a bluff impact zone. An access driveway to the proposed plant would be located within a bluff impact zone on the lower portion of the bluff.

No known environmental hazards exist at this site. A topographical map of the site is shown in Appendix A.

10. **Cover types.** Estimate the acreage of the site with each of the following cover types before and after development:

	<b>Before</b>	<b>After</b>		<b>Before</b>	<b>After</b>
Types 1-8 wetlands	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	Lawn/landscaping	<u>-0-</u>	<u>0.4</u>
Wooded/forest	<u>1.0</u>	<u>0.5</u>	Impervious surfaces	<u>-0-</u>	<u>0.1</u>
Brush/Grassland	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>	Other (describe)	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>
Cropland	<u>-0-</u>	<u>-0-</u>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>1.0</u>	<u>1.0</u>			

If **Before** and **After** totals are not equal, explain why:

11. **Fish, wildlife and ecologically sensitive resources**

a. Identify fish and wildlife resources and habitats on or near the site and describe how they would be affected by the project. Describe any measures to be taken to minimize or avoid impacts.

According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the project will not affect any federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species or adversely modify their critical habitat. See

Appendix for letter from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

b. Are any state-listed (endangered, threatened or special concern) species, rare plant communities or other sensitive ecological resources such as native prairie habitat, colonial waterbird nesting colonies or regionally rare plant communities on or near the site? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, describe the resource and how it would be affected by the project. Indicate if a site survey of the resources has been conducted and describe the results. If the DNR Natural Heritage and Nongame Research program has been contacted give the correspondence reference number: ERDB 20040181. Describe measures to minimize or avoid adverse impacts.

There are occurrences of rare plant and animal species within an approximate one-mile radius of the project area. See letter from the Minnesota DNR – Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program for detailed information of species. Any landscape plantings done with this project will incorporate native species.

12. **Physical impacts on water resources.** Will the project involve the physical or hydrologic alteration — dredging, filling, stream diversion, outfall structure, diking, and impoundment — of any surface waters such as a lake, pond, wetland, stream or drainage ditch? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, identify water resource affected and give the DNR Protected Waters Inventory number(s) if the water resources affected are on the PWI: . Describe alternatives considered and proposed mitigation measures to minimize impacts.

13. **Water use.** Will the project involve installation or abandonment of any water wells, connection to or changes in any public water supply or appropriation of any ground or surface water (including dewatering)? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, as applicable, give location and purpose of any new wells; public supply affected, changes to be made, and water quantities to be used; the source, duration, quantity and purpose of any appropriations; and unique well numbers and DNR appropriation permit numbers, if known. Identify any existing and new wells on the site map. If there are no wells known on site, explain methodology used to determine.

14. **Water-related land use management district.** Does any part of the project involve a shoreland zoning district, a delineated 100-year flood plain, or a state or federally designated wild or scenic river land use district? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, identify the district and discuss project compatibility with district land use restrictions.

15. **Water surface use.** Will the project change the number or type of watercraft on any water body? ☐ Yes ☒ No

If yes, indicate the current and projected watercraft usage and discuss any potential overcrowding or conflicts with other uses.

16. **Erosion and sedimentation.** Give the acreage to be graded or excavated and the cubic yards of soil to be moved:  
acres 0.5; cubic yards 2,200.

Describe any steep slopes or highly erodible soils and identify them on the site map.

The steepest existing slopes are approximately 3:1. New slopes created by the construction will be 3:1 or less. Areas requiring steeper slopes will be protected by retaining walls, probably employing modular brick with geotextile fabric lateral support. The steepest slopes are on the north side of the site.

Describe any erosion and sedimentation control measures to be used during and after project construction.

Some of the soils are erodible. All disturbed areas will be protected by silt fence and berms during construction. When construction is complete, the disturbed areas will be covered with gravel, grass, plantings and other ground cover. Slopes will be minimized to the fullest extent. The construction will have a low or neutral effect on rainfall absorption since part of the site will be gravel surface.

**17. Water quality: surface water runoff**

a. Compare the quantity and quality of site runoff before and after the project. Describe permanent controls to manage or treat runoff. Describe any stormwater pollution prevention plans.

No change in quality or quantity of runoff.

b. Identify routes and receiving water bodies for runoff from the site; include major downstream water bodies as well as the immediate receiving waters. Estimate impact runoff on the quality of receiving waters.

Stormwater runoff will be routed around the building in ditches or swales. The runoff will continue to drain to the south ditch of Cemetery Road as is presently the case. This water drains into Rush Creek through a culvert beneath Cemetery Road. The runoff water reaching the road ditch will contain less sediment and debris because the manage routes will be grass or other ground cover rather than forest floor.

**18. Water quality: wastewaters**

a. Describe sources, composition and quantities of all sanitary, municipal and industrial wastewater produced or treated at the site.

The new diesel engines will have self contained radiator cooling systems. The project is not expected to have a wastewater impact.

b. Describe waste treatment methods or pollution prevention efforts and give estimates of composition after treatment. Identify receiving waters, including major downstream water bodies, and estimate the discharge impact on the quality of receiving waters. If the project involves on-site sewage systems, discuss the suitability of site conditions for such systems. N / A.

c. If wastes will be discharged into a publicly owned treatment facility, identify the facility, describe any pretreatment provisions and discuss the facility's ability to handle the volume and composition of wastes, identifying any improvements necessary. N / A.

d. If the project requires disposal of liquid animal manure, describe disposal technique and location and discuss capacity to handle the volume and composition of manure. Identify any improvements necessary. Describe any required setbacks for land disposal systems. N / A.

**19. Geologic hazards and soil conditions**

a. Approximate depth (in feet) to ground water: 50 feet minimum unknown  
average to bedrock: 100 feet minimum unknown average unknown

Describe any of the following geologic site hazards to ground water and also identify them on the site map: sinkholes, shallow limestone formations or karst conditions. Describe measures to avoid or minimize environmental problems due to any of these hazards. N/A.

b. Describe the soils on the site, giving NRCS (SCS) classifications, if known. Discuss soil granularity and potential for groundwater contamination from wastes or chemicals spread or spilled onto the soils.

Discuss any mitigation measures to prevent such contamination.

Soil is Fayette silt loam with a designation of FH. Secondary containment will be employed for all petroleum products.

**20. Solid wastes, hazardous wastes, storage tanks**

a. Describe types, amounts and compositions of solid or hazardous wastes, including solid animal manure, sludge and ash, produced during construction and operation. Identify method and location of disposal. For projects generating municipal solid waste, indicate if there is a source separation plan; describe how the project will be modified for recycling. If hazardous waste is generated, indicate if there is a hazardous waste minimization plan and routine hazardous waste reduction assessments.

The power plant will operate on a standby peaking basis and will produce only minimal levels of solid waste. Much of the solid waste produced will be recyclable.

b. Identify any toxic or hazardous materials to be used or present at the site and identify measures to be used to prevent them from contaminating groundwater. If the use of toxic or hazardous materials will lead to a regulated waste, discharge or emission, discuss any alternatives considered to minimize or eliminate the waste, discharge or emission.

Ethylene glycol will be used as a coolant for the new engine radiators. As a peaking plant, the engine duty cycle should allow the coolant to be used for many years before it must be changed. The coolant will then be transported to a licensed recycling facility.

Lubricating oil and no. 2 fuel oil will be used in the diesel engines. Spent lubricating oil will be transported to a licensed recycling facility. Lubricating oil and fuel oil storage and spill prevention issues will be addressed in the facility Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure Plan (SPCC). The fuel oil storage tanks will be installed in accordance with EPA/MPCA requirements.

c. Indicate the number, location, size and use of any above or below ground tanks to store petroleum products or other materials, except water. Describe any emergency response containment plans.

**21. Traffic.**

Parking spaces added 3.

Existing spaces (if project involves expansion) N/A

Estimated total average daily traffic generated No Change

Estimated maximum peak hour traffic generated (if known) and time of occurrence Unknown

Provide an estimate of the impact on traffic congestion on affected roads and describe any traffic improvements necessary. If the project is within the Twin Cities metropolitan area, discuss its impact on the regional transportation system. N/A

**22. Vehicle-related air emissions.** Estimate the effect of the project's traffic generation on air quality, including carbon monoxide levels. Discuss the effect of traffic improvements or other mitigation measures on air quality impacts. Note: If the project involves 500 or more parking spaces, consult *EAW Guidelines* about whether a detailed air quality analysis is needed.

Upon completion of construction, the project is not anticipated to have any affect on vehicle-related air emissions. Vehicle traffic during construction will consist of equipment deliveries and contractors traveling to and from the work site.

**23. Stationary source air emissions.** Describe the type, sources, quantities and compositions of any emissions from stationary sources of air emissions such as boilers, exhaust stacks or fugitive dust sources. Include any hazardous air pollutants (consult *EAW Guidelines* for a listing) and any greenhouse gases (such as carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide) and ozone-depleting chemicals

(chloro-fluorocarbons, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons or sulfur hexafluoride). Also describe any proposed pollution prevention techniques and proposed air pollution control devices. Describe the impacts on air quality.

Sources and Emission Control: Three 2000 KW standby engine / generator sets. Air emissions will be minimized by the application of modern engine design technology, maintaining the engines in proper working order, and by the selection of low sulfur fuel oil.

Emission Quantities and Composition: The following table quantifies the potential air emissions from the generating units. Total emissions from engines in tons / yr is based on restricted fuel usage. The fuel usage restriction is federally enforceable and will be governed by the MPCA Option C Registration Air Permit for the facility. Emission Rates are based on AP-42 for large stationary diesel engines. SO<sub>2</sub> is dependent on the sulfur content of the fuel oil. Low sulfur fuel (0.05 % sulfur by weight) is expected to be consumed at the facility. Since the generating units will be operated on a standby basis, actual emissions are expected to be significantly less than the values shown in the table.

<u>Pollutant</u>	<u>Estimated Maximum Facility Emissions (tons / yr)</u>
PM	2.27
SO <sub>x</sub>	1.14
NO <sub>x</sub>	72.49
VOC	2.03
CO	19.26
CO <sub>2</sub>	3,737.86

Note: The values in the above table were derived using an approximate fuel consumption rate of 134 gal/hr per engine (based on information from similar sized units); a rated heat input of 18.76 MMBtu/hr per engine (based on above fuel consumption rate and 0.14 MMBTU/gal fuel) and a limit of 323,624 gallons / yr (max for facility, assuming equal runtime for each engine and MPCA Option C permit limits)

Air Quality Impacts: The stack height for the new units will be at least 40 feet to provide good dispersion of plant emissions. No significant impact on ambient air quality is expected.

There are no air pollution control devices planned to be installed on the engines. The application of modern engine design technology, maintaining the engines in proper working order, and the selection of low sulfur fuel oil is expected to mitigate any impacts due to air emissions.

24. **Odors, noise and dust.** Will the project generate odors, noise or dust during construction or during operation? X Yes \_\_\_ No

If yes, describe sources, characteristics, duration, quantities or intensity and any proposed measures to mitigate adverse impacts. Also identify locations of nearby sensitive receptors and estimate impacts on them. Discuss potential impacts on human health or quality of life. (Note: fugitive dust generated by operations may be discussed at item 23 instead of here.)

Construction noise, dust, etc. are expected to be minimal due to the placement of the new engines within the new building. A minimal amount of dust will be generated during grading operations prior to construction of the new building. Operation of the engines will result in noise from the engines and exhaust stacks. The building will be insulated and lined to reduce noise transmission to the environment.

Engine noise will be mitigated by installing the engines inside of the power plant building. Exhaust stacks will be muffled to reduce noise levels. The radiators will be mounted in the plant building and utilize sound attenuation packages to minimize their noise impact. The 40 feet or higher engine exhaust stacks will minimize the impact of exhaust noise. The plant will operate on a standby basis, typically between 10:00 AM and 10:00 PM on hot summer days or during system emergencies. The noise impact will generally be restricted to daylight (or dusk) hours.

The closest noise receptor is a residence approximately 600 feet from the proposed site. With the sound attenuation employed in the plant building, the trees and foliage between the site and the residence, and the distance between the site and the residence we anticipate the noise levels to comply with the Minnesota state noise standards.

25. **Nearby resources.** Are any of the following resources on or in proximity to the site?

Archaeological, historical or architectural resources?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Prime or unique farmlands or land within an agricultural preserve?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Designated parks, recreation areas or trails?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Scenic views and vistas?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Other unique resources?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

If yes, describe the resource and identify any project-related impacts on the resource. Describe any measures to minimize or avoid adverse impacts.

There are two properties near the proposed plant site that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. The proposed project is not anticipated to impact these properties. See letter in Appendix from Historical Society for more information.

The proposed project is located at the north edge of the bluff across from a cemetery. Refer to items 9, 16 and 17 above for discussion on the impacts of the project.

26. **Visual impacts.** Will the project create adverse visual impacts during construction or operation? Such as glare from intense lights, lights visible in wilderness areas and large visible plumes from cooling towers or exhaust stacks? ☒ Yes ☐ No

If yes, explain.

After construction there would be three 40 foot or higher exhaust stacks visible from the road serving the cemetery.

27. **Compatibility with plans and land use regulations.** Is the project subject to an adopted local comprehensive plan, land use plan or regulation, or other applicable land use, water, or resource management plan of a local, regional, state or federal agency?

☒ Yes ☐ No. If yes, describe the plan, discuss its compatibility with the project and explain how any conflicts will be resolved. If no, explain.

Bluff Protection and Conditional Use (Agricultural Zoning) review by City Attorney and City Engineers will be required. Rushford Planning Commission will also review subject to receiving information from City Attorney and City Engineer. Review of City's Comprehensive Plan revealed that this project is compatible with objective to improve electric utility service to city residents (Ref. Comp Plan, Survey Summary, pg. 5).

28. **Impact on infrastructure and public services.** Will new or expanded utilities, roads, other infrastructure or public services be required to serve the project? ☒ Yes ☐ No.

If yes, describe the new or additional infrastructure or services needed. (Note: any infrastructure that is

a connected action with respect to the project must be assessed in the EAW; see *EAW Guidelines* for details.)

A new power plant building is to be constructed to house the new units on the proposed power plant site. The plant will be interconnected to the municipal electric distribution system.

29. **Cumulative impacts.** Minnesota Rule part 4410.1700, subpart 7, item B requires that the RGU consider the "cumulative potential effects of related or anticipated future projects" when determining the need for an environmental impact statement. Identify any past, present or reasonably foreseeable future projects that may interact with the project described in this EAW in such a way as to cause cumulative impacts. Describe the nature of the cumulative impacts and summarize any other available information relevant to determining whether there is potential for significant environmental effects due to cumulative impacts (*or discuss each cumulative impact under appropriate item(s) elsewhere on this form*).

At the present time there are no plans to construct additional emission sources at the plant. This project is not a subsequent stage of an earlier project, nor is it a preliminary stage of a future project. No future development is presently planned for lands adjacent to the project site.

The City of Rushford may, at some future date, wish to install additional generating capacity. If and when additional generating capacity is added, it will be accomplished within the air permit annual restriction. Rushford will then be capable of producing more power during periods of peak system demand, but will remain within the permit annual restriction.

30. **Other potential environmental impacts.** If the project may cause any adverse environmental impacts not addressed by items 1 to 28, identify and discuss them here, along with any proposed mitigation.

No other potential impacts to be noted.

31. **Summary of issues.** *Do not complete this section if the EAW is being done for EIS scoping; instead, address relevant issues in the draft Scoping Decision document, which must accompany the EAW.* List any impacts and issues identified above that may require further investigation before the project is begun. Discuss any alternatives or mitigative measures that have been or may be considered for these impacts and issues, including those that have been or may be ordered as permit conditions.

Stationary source air emissions: The project will result in the emission of additional air pollutants from the Rushford Plant. The application of modern engine design technology, maintaining the engines in proper working order, and the selection of low sulfur fuel oil is expected to mitigate any impacts due to air emissions. The plant will be restricted to a total of 100 tons of all criteria and hazardous pollutants per year under an MPCA Registration Air Permit (Option C).

**RGU CERTIFICATION.** The Environmental Quality Board will only accept **SIGNED** Environmental Assessment Worksheets for public notice in the EQB Monitor.

**I hereby certify that:**

- The information contained in this document is accurate and complete to the best of my knowledge.
- The EAW describes the complete project; there are no other projects, stages or components other than those described in this document, which are related to the project as connected actions or phased actions, as defined at Minnesota Rules, parts 4410.0200, subparts 9b and 60, respectively.
- Copies of this EAW are being sent to the entire EQB distribution list.

Signature

Date

Title Bill Storm, State Planning Director, Staff EQB

**Environmental Assessment Worksheet** was prepared by the staff of the Environmental Quality Board at Minnesota Planning. For additional information, worksheets or for *EAW Guidelines*, contact: Environmental Quality Board, 658 Cedar St., St. Paul, MN 55155, 651-296-8253, or [www.mnplan.state.mn.us](http://www.mnplan.state.mn.us)

APPENDIX

Bound With EAW

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Review Letter  
Minnesota DNR – Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program Review Letter  
City of Rushford – Reply Letter to Minnesota DNR  
Minnesota Historical Society Review Letter  
County Location Map  
Project Site Topographical Map  
Proposed Site Plan  
Zoning Map

In Back Folder

USGS Topographical Maps of Area  
Natural Communities and Rare Species of Fillmore County Map

Ready File  
# 9765

FROM THE DESK OF:

GARY J. WEGE  
U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE  
TWIN CITIES FIELD OFFICE, 4101 E. 80TH STREET  
BLOOMINGTON, MINNESOTA 55425-1665

COMM. 612/725-3548, ext. 207  
FAX 612/725-3609  
Gary\_Wege@fws.gov

DATE: 9-17-03

PAGE: 1 of 1

PHONE: 952-912-2601

TO: Marty Smith, Associated Consultants, Inc., Minnetonka, MN

SUBJECT: Rushford Power Plant, Fillmore Co., MN, T104N, R8W, S14.

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Dear Mr. Smith

This responds to your letter dated August 27, 2003, requesting information on federally threatened and endangered species for the above referenced project.

There are currently no federally endangered or threatened species known to occur at the specific location identified in your letter and accompanying materials. Consequently, we have determined that this project will not affect any federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species or adversely modify their critical habitat. This precludes the need for further action on this project as required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. However, if the project is modified or new information becomes available which indicates that listed species may occur in the affected area, consultation with this office should be reinitiated.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and look forward to working with you in the future. If you have questions regarding our comments, please call me at (612) 725-3548, extension 207.

Gary J. Wege  
Fish & Wildlife Biologist

FWS ID # 9765



## Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, Box 25

500 Lafayette Road

St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-40\_\_

Phone: (651) 296-7863

Fax: (651) 296-1811

E-mail: sarah.hoffmann@dnr.state.mn.us

RECEIVED  
SEP 22 2003

SHORT ELLNOTT HENDRICKSON  
10901 RED CIRCLE DR. #200  
MTKA., MN 55343

September 18, 2003

Marty Smith  
Associated Consultants Engineers, Inc.  
10901 Red Circle Drive, Suite 200  
Minnetonka, MN 55343

Re: Request for Natural Heritage information for vicinity of proposed Rushford Power Plant,  
T104N R8W Section 14, Fillmore County  
NHNRP Contact #: ERDB 20040181

Dear Mr. Smith,

The Minnesota Natural Heritage database has been reviewed to determine if any rare plant or animal species or other significant natural features are known to occur within an approximate one-mile radius of the area indicated on the map enclosed with your information request. Based on this review, there are 31 known occurrences of rare species or natural communities in the area searched (for details, see enclosed database printout and explanation of selected fields). Following are specific comments for **only those elements that may be impacted** by the proposed project. Rare feature occurrences not listed below are not anticipated to be affected by the proposed project.

- The power plant is proposed within an area that has been identified by the Minnesota County Biological Survey as a "Site of Outstanding Biodiversity Significance". "Sites of Biodiversity Significance" are areas with varying levels of native biodiversity that may contain high quality native plant communities, rare plants, rare animals, and/or animal aggregations. Biodiversity significance is evaluated on the basis of the number of rare species, the quality of the native plant communities, size of site, and context within the landscape. This particular site contains Oak Forest and Dry Prairie Natural Communities and supports several rare plant species (see the enclosed map for details). To protect this ecologically significant site we would prefer that an alternative location be selected for the power plant. If this is not feasible, we request that the setbacks designated in the Fillmore County Blufflands Ordinance be adhered to. We further request that all landscape plantings incorporate native species. If you would like assistance with developing an appropriate planting list, please contact Regional Plant Ecologist, Ann Pierce at (507) 280-5076.

The Natural Heritage database is maintained by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program, a unit within the Division of Ecological Services, Department of Natural Resources. It is continually updated as new information becomes available, and is the most complete source of data on Minnesota's rare or otherwise significant species, natural communities, and other natural features. Its purpose is to foster better understanding and protection of these features.

Because our information is not based on a comprehensive inventory, there may be rare or otherwise significant natural features in the state that are not represented in the database. A county-by-county survey of rare natural features is now underway, and has been completed for Fillmore County. Our information about natural communities is, therefore, quite thorough for that county. However, because

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survey work for rare plants and animals is less exhaustive, and because there has not been an on-site survey of all areas of the county, ecologically significant features for which we have no records may exist on the project area.

The enclosed results of the database search are provided in two formats: index and full record. To control the release of locational information which might result in the damage or destruction of a rare element, both printout formats are copyrighted.

The index provides rare feature locations only to the nearest section, and may be reprinted, unaltered, in an Environmental Assessment Worksheet, municipal natural resource plan, or report compiled by your company for the project listed above. If you wish to reproduce the index for any other purpose, please contact me to request written permission. Copyright notice for the index should include the following disclaimer:

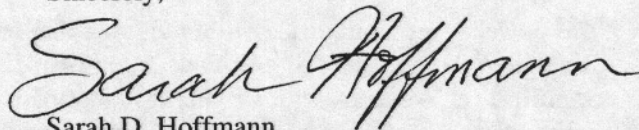
"Copyright (year) State of Minnesota, Department of Natural Resources. This index may be reprinted, unaltered, in Environmental Assessment Worksheets, municipal natural resource plans, and internal reports. For any other use, written permission is required."

**The full-record printout includes more detailed locational information, and is for your personal use only. If you wish to reprint the full-record printouts for any purpose, please contact me to request written permission.**

Please be aware that review by the Natural Heritage and Nongame Research Program focuses only on *rare natural features*. It does not constitute review or approval by the Department of Natural Resources as a whole. If you require further information on the environmental review process for other wildlife-related issues, you may contact your Regional Environmental Assessment Ecologist, Shannon Fisher, at (507) 359-6073.

An invoice for the work completed is enclosed. You are being billed for map and database search and staff scientist review. Please forward this invoice to your Accounts Payable Department. Thank you for consulting us on this matter, and for your interest in preserving Minnesota's rare natural resources.

Sincerely,



Sarah D. Hoffmann

Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator

encl: Database search results  
Rare Feature Database Print-Outs: An Explanation of Fields  
Natural Communities and Rare Species Map: Fillmore County  
Invoice

cc: Ann Pierce  
Shannon Fisher



*City of Parks, Trees and Trails*

## CITY OF RUSHFORD

101 N. Mill Street  
P.O. Box 430  
Rushford, MN 55971-0430

Phone: 507-864-2444

Fax: 507-864-7003

RECEIVED  
OCT 15 2003

SHORT ELLIOTT HENDRICKSON  
10901 RED CIRCLE DR. #200  
MTKA., MN 55343

October 9, 2003

Ms. Sarah D. Hoffmann  
Endangered Species Environmental Review Coordinator  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Road  
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Proposed Rushford Power Plant  
T104N, R8W, Section 14, Fillmore County  
NHNRP Contact # ERDB 20040181

Dear Ms. Hoffmann:

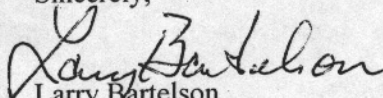
Thank you for the research performed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) on the rare plant and animal species, or other significant natural features that may be affected by the proposed power plant. We share the DNR's concerns about development in and near the bluff lands of our community.

We understand that the DNR would prefer an alternative location for the proposed plant. Rushford's bluff land resource is very important to the community. Our bluffs help define who we are and our place in the natural world. We have investigated five possible sites for the plant and have selected the proposed site as it causes the least impact on the environmental and human resources associated with the project.

Rushford's zoning ordinance has an entire chapter on bluff protection. The chapter includes significant detail on development restrictions in and around bluff areas. Issues such as site disturbance, erosion control, structures, impervious surfacing, setbacks, grading, filling and replanting are all addressed. In establishing the proposed power plant, we fully intend to follow the bluff protection guidelines set forth in the City's zoning ordinance. Activities at the proposed site will generally be confined to an area of less than one acre of the 175<sup>+</sup> acres of Magelssen bluff. Any disturbed areas will be replanted, and we will certainly take the opportunity to contact Ann Pierce, the DNR's regional plant ecologist, for assistance with replanting the site.

Again, thank you for the research and your comments on our proposed plant site.

Sincerely,

  
Larry Bartelson  
City Administrator

Cc: Associated Consultants Engineers  
Rushford Electric Utility Commission



MINNESOTA HISTORICAL SOCIETY

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

RECEIVED  
OCT - 2 2003

SHORT ELLIOTT HENDRICKSON  
10901 RED CIRCLE DR. #200  
MTKA., MN 55343

September 30, 2003

Mr. Marty Smith  
Associated Consultants Engineers  
10901 Red Circle Drive  
Minnetonka, MN 55343

RE: Construction of a new diesel engine generator plant  
T104 R8 S14, Rushford, Fillmore County  
SHPO Number: 2003-3685

Dear Mr. Smith:

Thank you for consulting with our office during the preparation of an Environmental Assessment Worksheet for the above referenced project.

We do not believe that an archaeological survey of the site is needed.

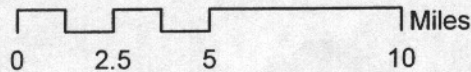
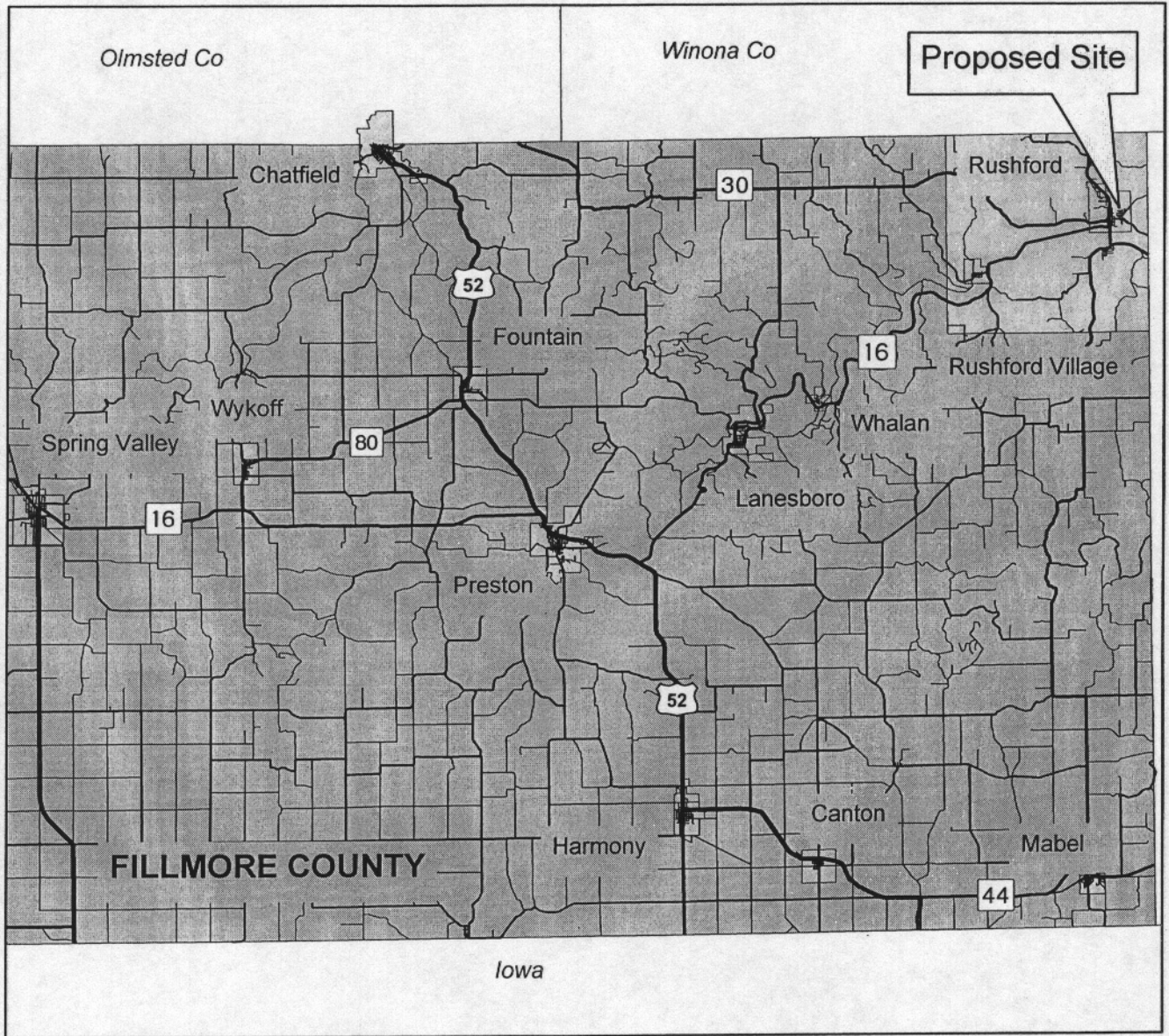
There are two properties in the vicinity that are listed on the National Register of Historic Places – The Walker and Valentine House, at 504 High Street, and the Rushford City Mill, at 301 Winona Street. Any potential project impacts on these properties should be considered.

In addition, if the project is considered for federal assistance, or requires a federal permit or license, it may be subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. It may be necessary to consider other potential historic buildings in the area as part of such a review.



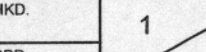
Please contact us at (651) 296-5462 if you have any questions regarding our comments on this project.

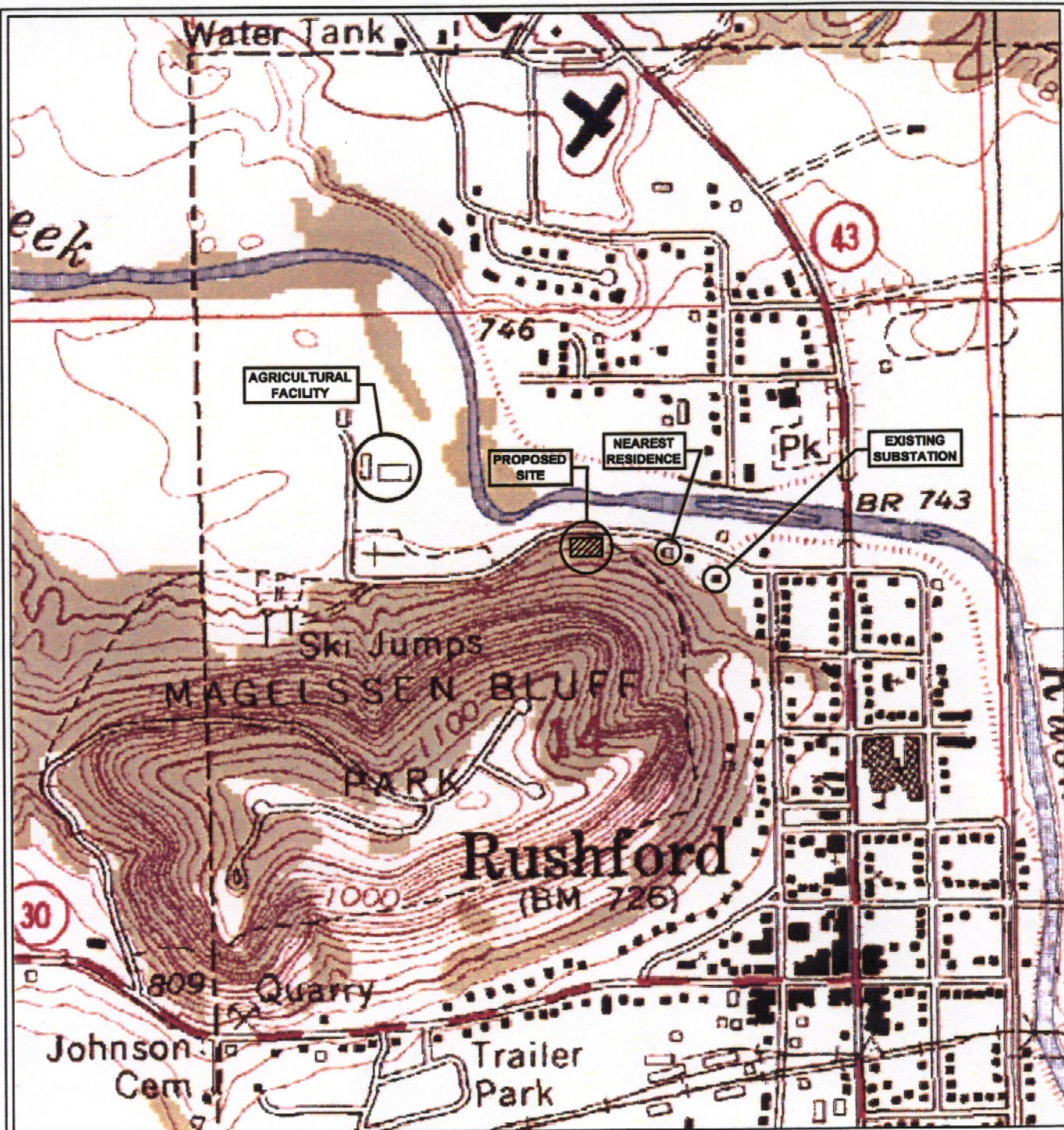
Sincerely,

Dennis A. Gimmestad  
Government Programs and Compliance Officer



D:/PROJECTS/RUSHFORD/0303.00/GIS/COUNTYLOCATION.MXD

 PHONE: (952) 912-2600 FAX: (952) 912 - 2601 WWW.SEHINC.COM	 ASSOCIATED CONSULTANTS ENGINEERS, INC. A MEMBER OF THE SEH GROUP	COUNTY LOCATION MAP	DRWN. MSS	PROJ. ARUSHF0303.00
		MUNICIPAL ELECTRICAL UTILITY	CHKD.	
		RUSHFORD, MINNESOTA	APPD.	



NORTH

**SEH**  
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 FAX: (952) 912-2601  
 WWW.SEHINC.COM

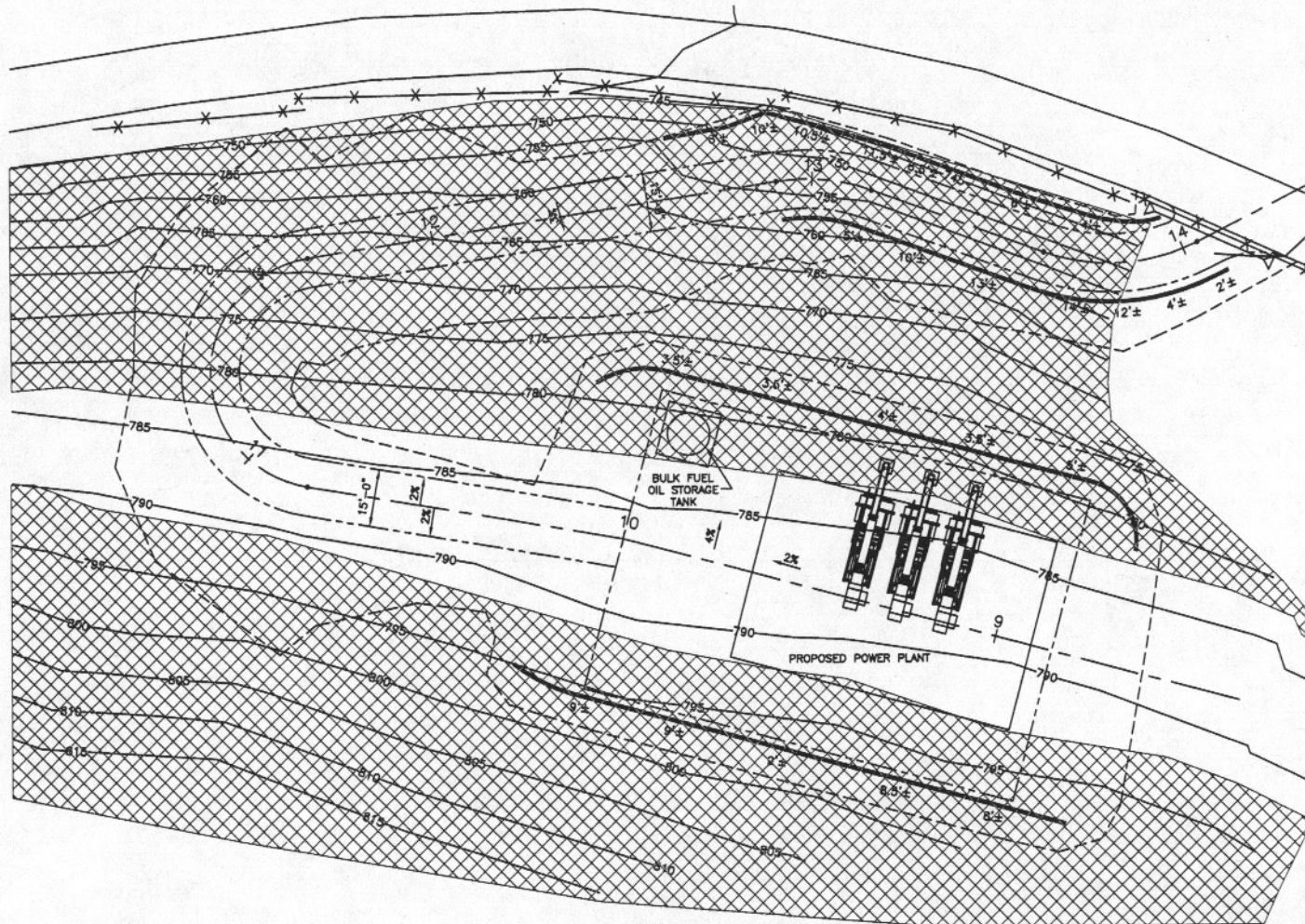
**AG** ASSOCIATED  
 CONSULTANTS  
 ENGINEERS, INC.  
 A MEMBER OF THE SEH GROUP

TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP

MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY

RUSHFORD, IOWA

DRWN. PGM	PROJ. ARUSHF0303.00
CHKD.	1
APPD.	1
SCALE N.T.S.	DATE 8/21/03

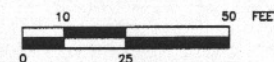


NORTH

### LEGEND

- EXIST. CONTOURS ————— 780
- PROPOSED RET. CURB - - - - -
- PROPOSED RETAINING WALL APPROX. HEIGHT WALL ————— 9'±
- PROPOSED CONST. LIMITS - - - - -
- PROPOSED SILT FENCE — X X X X X
- PROPOSED CULVERT ———— APRON ———— APRON
- DIRECTION OF DITCH FLOW —————>
- APPROX. BLUFF IMPACT ZONE [Hatched Box]

SCALE: 1"=30'



REV.	DESCRIPTION OF REVISION	DRAWN	APPD.	DATE



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FAX: (952) 912-2801  
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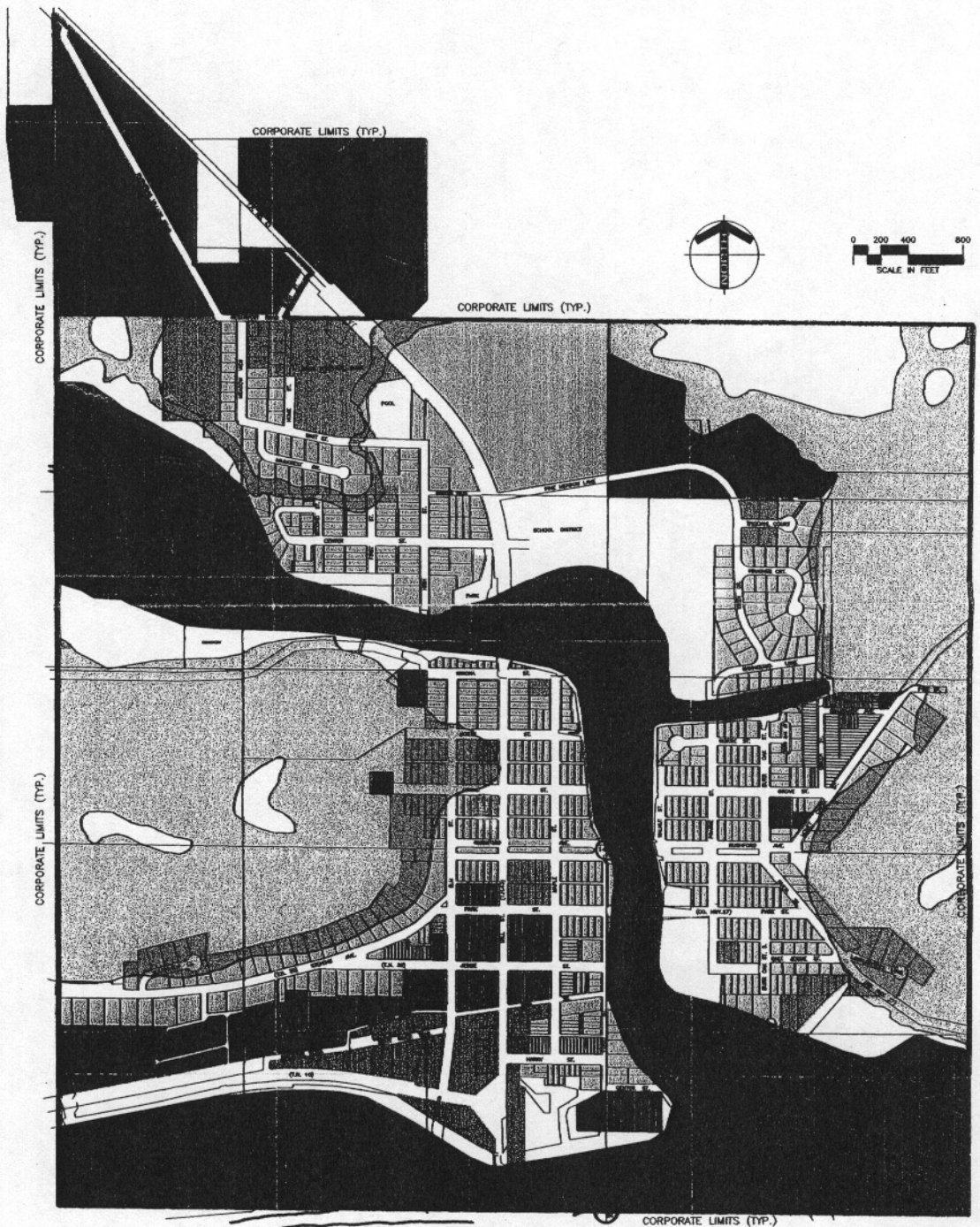


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**PROPOSED SITE PLAN**  
**MUNICIPAL ELECTRIC UTILITY**  
**RUSHFORD, MINNESOTA**

DRWN. PGM CHKD.	PROJ. ARUSHF0303.00
APPD.	1 / 1
SCALE AS SHOWN	DATE 9/9/03

# CITY OF RUSHFORD, MINNESOTA



## ZONING MAP

06/24/97

### LEGEND

- A AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT
- C CBD CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT
- C-A ARTERIAL COMMERCIAL DISTRICT
- I-1 LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT
- R-1 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT
- R-2 SINGLE FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT
- R-3 MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT
- R-MH MOBILE HOME DISTRICT
- P.U.D. PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT
- BLUFF PROTECTION OVERLAY DISTRICT
- FLOOD PLAIN MANAGEMENT OVERLAY DISTRICT

**YAGGY  
COLBY  
ASSOCIATES**  
ENGINEERS - ARCHITECTS  
SURVEYORS - PLANNERS  
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS